

# SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

**Serving the Tri-State over 75 years**

October 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 10



The SPARKS Newsletter is published monthly by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided that TARS and the article author is properly credited. Complimentary issues of the SPARKS Newsletter are available to amateur radio clubs on a newsletter exchange by e-mailing your request to [sparks.w9og@gmail.com](mailto:sparks.w9og@gmail.com).

E-mail subscriptions are provided to all regular TARS members.

News contributions and letters/emails to the editor are always welcome.

TARS regular membership is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators for \$25.00 a year. An Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but do not currently hold a license. Associate membership is \$25.00 a year. Student memberships are also available for \$12.50 a year. Membership information is available at [www.w9og.net](http://www.w9og.net)

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd, Evansville IN, at **7:00 p.m.**

Family and visitors are always welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter or email [info@w9og.net](mailto:info@w9og.net).

## Presidents Corner

October 2023

This summer was so hot, I barely wanted to be outside. It was summer when we left for Japan but when we got back two weeks later it was definitely fall. Closed our pool last weekend and it seems I'm in a rush to get ready for winter because I put off going outside until now.

I am wanting to get the club build 5 element cubical quad up. We are going to need a few things if we want to have it up in place like Mark KDOEE. We need a tripod and a TV rotor and a "pitch pad kit" that has sealant and the lag screws to attach it to the roof. Amazon has these available (RCA VH226E for \$122, Skywalker Heavy Duty Tripod Base for \$60, and the pitch pad kit for \$9). You will also need another pole for the antenna. I need to get this up and an HF skyloop up too – Antenna Party!

Our club is in a transition phase or a growing spurt. We are getting new members to join us which is always a good thing. For those of us like me who have been in the hobby for decades, this is our opportunity to "Elmer". Please do so. Radio provides so much joy, and we get to witness this joy grow in others as we help them. So I'm asking the elmers out there to not just step back and let the new crowd take over, but instead elmer them. Don't just hand over the radio, show them. This includes club activities too.

As mentioned at the picnic, we lost a dear friend, Don KB9YWQ SK, who seemed to be always on our local repeaters, that friendly voice to share airwaves with. Our last conversation on the air was extremely personal and sad and I'm glad that we had radio to share, to unite us. It reminds me of Scotty from Columbus IN. Scotty had his 2M on all day 24/7. He was almost like "the operator" (remember those?). He always had a joke and polite conversation ready for you. When he passed away the repeater seemed so quiet. When you called monitoring or listening, it seemed you really were the only one. Regardless of how much you love radios, you need someone who shares that same passion to enjoy the hobby. EVERY CQ is for YOU. TARS is so blessed with our local repeaters, and we should keep an active role in improving and maintaining them. Do your part by using them please.

Bring something to share at the next meeting. This club really is what you make of it.

I'm so excited for Hamtober Fest!!!

73

KD4SIR

Scott Hibbs

## October TARS Meeting –10/12/23

The next TARS meeting is this Thursday Oct.12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross. The meeting program will be the Nano VNA, by Walt WB4ZUT and Rick KF0YL.

We will also have a short talk by Raymond W9KHP on the McCreary Gravel Rally. A few of the Warrick Co guys went down and helped out last year and Raymond thought some might be interested in doing it in 2024. You can see a couple YouTube videos of the cross-band radio testing at:

### #1. Testing And Prep For The McCreary Gravel Rally 2023!!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA5Qc-jyAlY&t=9s>

### #2. McCreary Gravel Rally 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OnwYmFa2KA>

Come out and join us for a fun time!

## Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that would like to join us. **We meet at 5:30**, for you to grab a bite to eat, swap stories, tell a few lies and whatever else you like, giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the meeting at 7:00.

Come out and join us at **AZZIP Pizza, 2121 N Green River Rd.**

## TARS OFFICER ELECTIONS

2024 Officer elections will be at the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, but we are actively looking for nominations. Offices up for election are:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Board Members.

If you wish to nominate someone or yourself, please contact Walt WB4ZUT or make your nomination at the October TARS meeting. The only requirement is that they have been a TARS member in good standing for at least a year.



## Hamtober Fest raffle tickets are on sale!

John N9OL had tickets for the raffle for sale at last months meeting and will have more this month. The raffle is for a Yaesu FT-891 HF rig. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.



## Hamtober Fest

Our 5th annual Hamtober Fest 2023, this Saturday October 14th between 7 AM to Noon. It's your last chance to reserve a table. Goto [Hamtoberfest.com](http://Hamtoberfest.com) to reserve or for more information.

If you haven't volunteered yet to help out for the club, contact Dennis WAZUSA and he will gladly find something for you to do.

See the flier attached with this mailing.

## TARS Calendar

### October

- 4 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 5 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 11 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 12 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 **HAMTOBER FEST 7am – Noon, Lynnville**
- 18 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 25 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)

### November

- 1 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 2 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 4 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 8 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 9 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 15 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 22 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 29 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)

## The Contest Corner

By Mark Holland [KDOEE](#)

The biggie this month is the CQ Worldwide DX phone contest October 28-29. This 48-hour contest will feature worldwide participation and several DXpedition stations. Yes, the contest is a dogfight with many big guns with lots of aluminum in the air, but don't let that intimidate you if you are a little pistol. Let the big guys do the heavy lifting. You will be surprised how many will hear you. We are in CQ Zone 4 so your exchange will be the obligatory 5/9-04. If you are having difficulty in the peak hours of the contest, try Sunday afternoon. Many stations will be begging for contacts. Propagation should be excellent for 10/15 meters, so now is the chance. Have fun!!!

In the November SPARKS we will take a look at the Sweepstakes contest. See you on the bands!

## Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

I have come across what looks like a very interesting newsletter for anyone looking to advance their technical knowledge or is just curious.

The Hot Iron Newsletter is sent out via email quarterly, covers a wide range of topics and also has the previous editions available online to browse through.

Registering is free and as easy as adding your email and clicking the post button. Check it out and join the list if you find it useful

### **Hot Iron Newsletter**

<https://www.w4nnp.net/hot-iron-directory/>

A highly technical quarterly newsletter for Hams. W4NPN

## BITS of Interest

Thanks to Mark KC9TYA for this link to an interesting article on ham radio and the 37 flood.

### **Trials and Errors Issue #29: More Hero Hams**

#### **-- the 1937 Ohio River Valley Flood**

By [Dave Jensen, W7DGJ](#)

[https://www.qrz.com/articles/node\\_1696444550](https://www.qrz.com/articles/node_1696444550)

## Brag Rag

Do you have something you would like to submit for the Brag Rag? Send your QSLs, special event certificates, awards, interesting photos, projects etc. to [sparks.w9og@gmail.com](mailto:sparks.w9og@gmail.com) to have them included in your newsletter.

## FCC seeking comments on changes to the 60m band

The FCC is proposing to make some changes to the 60m band. Amateur radio has access to this band through 5 specific channels with a maximum of 100 watts ERP. The FCC is proposing to eliminate the channels and allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, but with a lower power limit than is current allowed on the 5 channels. The Federal government is the primary user of this band, but the National Telecommunications and Information Administration recognizes the value of this band to amateur radio. For more information about what is being proposed, see:

<https://www.arrrl.org/news/arrrl-advocates-for-radio-amateurs-as-fcc-proposes-changes-to-60-meter-band>

The comment deadline for this proposal is October 30, 2023. For more info about the comment period, see:

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/comment-deadlines-set-on-proposed-60-meter-band-changes>

## AMI Jamboree Scheduled for November

The ARRL Letter for September 28, 2023

The 2023 [Amplitude Modulation International \(AMI\) Jamboree](#) will be held over the Thanksgiving weekend, starting at dusk on November 24 and ending at dawn on November 27.

AMI Executive Director John C. McGrath, N9AMI, said the jamboree is not a contest but rather an AM-only operating event.

"Everyone is welcome to participate, and there is a certificate available for those who contact 25 stations and submit a log," said McGrath.

"Each class winner will receive a certificate, and a short biography will be posted on the AMI website. While the age of the equipment doesn't matter, there must be an AM mode selection on the radio," he added.

The preferred AM bands for operation are:

160 meters: 1.885, 1.900, 1.945, 1.985

80 meters: 3.870 to 3.890

40 meters: 7.175, 7.290, 7.293, 7.295

20 meters: 14.286 and the upper end of 20 meters

According to the club's history, AMI was formed in 1993. The name was taken from a west coast amateur radio club that was no longer in operation. AMI is now dedicated to the enjoyment, promotion, and preservation of AM. Club memberships include numbered membership certificates, an organization of 10 regions with directors, annual operating events, local club support, and the monitoring of activities that affect AM operations. While the FCC reduced the peak-envelope power measurement for AM, they also issued a statement in support of continuing the mode's important place in amateur radio.

More information is available on the [AMI](#) website.



## October Birthdays!!!

K9HVI	Ed Folz	6
WB9KQF	Terry McCrerey	10
KC9TYA	Mark Thienes	11
KG9NA	Tim Hays	19
N9JCA	Chris Matthews	23
K9KDJ	Ken Johnson	26

## VE Testing 2023

November 4 2023 - 9AM Central time

December 9 2023 - 9AM Central time

**You will need to know your FRN number. If you have a license currently you have an FRN number. If you do not yet have a license you can register with the FCC and obtain an FRN number. Go to [www.fcc.gov/register](http://www.fcc.gov/register).**

**If you need help or have questions, please let me know at [n9ol@arrrl.net](mailto:n9ol@arrrl.net).**

**Examinations will start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.**

We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis. Details can be found at:

<http://w9og.net/ve-testing>

For more info contact: [John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



## Hamfest Calendar

10/14/2023 - Hamtober Fest

Location: Lynnville, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tri State Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>

2023 Vendor List:

Silver Needle Embroidery

RF Headquarters

For a complete ARRL hamfest list, go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>



## Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next regular ARES/RACES meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm at the West Side EMA training center. We are always looking for new operators interested in joining and participating.

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to contact us for more details.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK [IN82RACES@gmail.com](mailto:IN82RACES@gmail.com)

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

c: 812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline: 12604 WinLink: KE9YK



## Warrick Co ARES/RACES

The Warrick County ARES/RACES group meets on the second Monday of each month. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and generally is completed by 9:00pm. The meetings are held on the third floor of the Court House in the EMA Conference room. Anyone needing additional information concerning meetings or location contact: Chris L. Owen at [KC9CLO@gmail.com](mailto:KC9CLO@gmail.com)

## Secretary Report

### TARS Board Meeting 9/7/2023

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by Jerry WB9ONU

Members present,

Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Jerry WB9ONU, Walt WB4ZUT, Duane K3LWD, Herb KB9MZH, Brian WB9QVR, Dave KC9UVG, Charlie WB8LDV, John N9OL and Rick KF0TL

- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH, with an ending balance of \$7,229.93 Accepted
- John N9OL Raffle ticket money: John would like to turn over the monies collected to date to Tom for deposit.
- Shack Committee: John N9OL is looking at chairs for the shack
- Repeater: John N9OL discussed the current repeaters and had a list he will furnish with equipment for the Yaesu fusion repeaters. Also discussed the 6.79 repeater and that we need a committee to track down deficiencies in the system and come up with a plan to make a proposal to EMA on needed updates.

- Herby is looking for an antenna party. His antenna has a high SWR. Sat Oct 21<sup>st</sup>?
- HamtoberFest: John N9OL has the raffle ticks and is selling them at the meetings. Also need more donations for the club to sell at the Hamfest. John is willing to pick up any donated equipment.
- TARS Picnic September 16<sup>th</sup>: Jerry WB9ONU, start at 9am and eat around Noon. Half pot drawing at 1:30.

We need a grill. Jerry will call and ask if the grill inside is useable.

- Election Committee: Walt WB4ZUT said he is taking any nominations and will ask for nominations at the meeting. Elections are in November. All offices and 3 board positions are up for vote.
- Repeaters: Discussion on purchasing the DR2X from Dave. Tabled until a later date. We need to get with Dave to determine how to proceed with transfer.
- Chris KE9YK mentioned that Raymond Edge had info for the McCreary Gravel Rally in Stearns KY. Chris will see if Raymond wants to talk about it for a few minutes at the Oct meeting.
- Jerry mentioned the Solat Eclipse next year and was wondering if the club could do something for it.
- Sep: No regular Meeting. Picnic Saturday in September 16
- Oct: Nano VNA – Walt & Rick KF0TL
- Nov: Mesh Networking – Brian WB9QVR

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

### TARS Picnic Meeting 9/16/2023

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 12:55pm at the picnic, Mesker park shelter #15

We had 17 sign in on the roster but had a good many more in attendance.

- Scott opened the meeting with a mention on the passing of Don KB9YWQ and how he will be missed.
- Half-pot drawing- The winner was John Small for a total of \$92.50. John took back his \$10 and donated the balance of \$82.50 to the TARS general fund.
- Hamtober Fest: Dennis is doing well with volunteers and will still accept more, especially for set-up and clean-up. Still looking for any donations of equipment for the club to sell. Dennis WA2USA or John N9OL will be happy to make arrangements for picking anything up.
- Election Nominations: We accepted a nomination of Mark Holland KD0EE for board member.
- Thanks to Jerry WB9ONU for cooking and Tom KD9PFH for cooking backup and food coordination.
- John N9OL also has raffle tickets for sale, for the FT891.

Meeting adjourned 1:10pm.

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary



## Treasurer Report

August 2023 (prepared 9/5/23)

Club Opening Balance \$7,165.93  
Amateur Radio Society Account  
Opening Balance: \$7,097.62

### Receipts:

Memberships \$50.00  
VE Room July \$14.00  
Total Receipts --->> \$64.00

### Expenditures:

Total Expenditures--->> \$0.00

Ending Balance \$7,161.62

TARS IGC Account

Opening Balance: \$68.31

### Receipts:

### Expenditures:

TARS IGC Balance \$68.31  
Club Ending Balance \$7,229.93  
Red Cross Account \$926.99  
Funds Available to TARS \$6,302.94

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – TARS Treasurer

## Looking Ahead

### TARS 5<sup>th</sup> annual HAMTOBER FEST October 14, 2023

Jamboree-on-the-Air third full weekend in October  
SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

### 2024

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

### Winter Field Day January

### TARS Banquet February

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

### INQP May 2024

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 1-2 2024

### Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

### Field Day June 22-23, 2024

13 Colonies Special Event July

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) third full weekend of August

### TARS PICNIC September ???

Route 66 Special Event September 11-19

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)

### TARS mailing address:

TARS

P.O. Box 4521

Evansville, IN 47724

Don't forget to check out our web page [www.w9og.net](http://www.w9og.net)

### Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og>

TARS Groups.io email list: [TARS@Groups.IO](mailto:TARS@Groups.IO)

TARS E-mail: [info@w9og.net](mailto:info@w9og.net)

## 2023 Club Officers - Board members

President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Vice President [Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#)

### Board of Directors

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2022-2023)

[Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#) (2022-2023)

[Duane Vanderpool K3LWD](#) (2023)

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2023-2024)

[Brian Esche WB9QVR](#) (2023-2024)

[Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT](#) (2023-2024)

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